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LETTER DATED 5 SEPTEMBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE HOST COUNTRY

I have the honour of addressing you to request that the enclosed text of the note verbale dated 1 September 1996 sent by the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations to the United States Mission to the United Nations, in regard to the denial of admission into the territory of the United States, through Dorval International Airport in Montreal on 1 September 1996, of Mr. Pedro Luis Pedroso Cuesta, Second Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations, be circulated as an official document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

(Signed) Bruno RODRÍGUEZ PARRILLA

ANNEX

Note verbale dated 1 September 1996 from the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the United States Mission to the United Nations

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United States Mission to the United Nations and wishes to inform it of the following:

Today, 1 September 1996, Mr. Pedro Luis Pedroso Cuesta, Second Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations, was not allowed to continue his trip from Havana to New York, via Montreal, Canada, by the United States immigration authorities at Dorval Airport, Montreal.

Minutes before boarding flight AC 750, scheduled to depart at 6.25 p.m., the United States Immigration authorities detained Mr. Pedroso Cuesta, together with another Cuban diplomat from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba, Mrs. Anayansi Rodríguez Camejo, and required them to remain in place without giving any explanation. For an hour, in the presence of the two Cuban diplomats, a United States Immigration Service officer made several telephone calls and talked to the supervising Immigration Inspector. At about 6 p.m., the supervising Inspector informed Mrs. Rodríguez Camejo the she would be allowed to board and told Mr. Pedroso Cuesta that he could not continue his trip because the United States Department of State had decided that it was necessary to make some inquiries about his visa and its validity and in regard to the authorization which he had received to enter United States territory.

In addition, the same supervising Immigration Inspector, who stated that her name was Mrs. Angela Coronado, explained to Mr. Pedroso Cuesta that the United States Department of State instruction was accompanied by the advice that Mr. Pedroso should contact the United States Consulate in Montreal on 3 September.

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations states its objection to this incident, which absolutely disregards the fact that Mr. Pedro Luis Pedroso Cuesta holds a diplomatic passport (No. 24867), bears a multiple-entry United States visa, which is valid until 21 May 1997, and in addition, owing to his status, must return to his duties as Second Secretary of the Cuban Mission. Likewise, Mr. Pedroso Cuesta holds a Canadian transit visa, valid only until 1 September 1996. Thus, requiring him to remain on Canadian territory and present himself at the United States Consulate in Montreal is an unfeasible demand which gives rise to additional difficulties.

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations states its objection to this incident and requests of the United States Mission to the United Nations that it be promptly clarified.